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STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 146

SEPTEMBER 1990

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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE).
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. TO loan books from the Circle library (**home members only**). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.
4. TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP&SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £6 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £8 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency *notes* - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

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PROGRAMME

1990

Wed.	17 Oct.	2.15 p.m.	Mr. J.W. Jackson - The Dutch West Indies Venue: STAt4PEX (Floral Room 'A')
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1991

Wed.	27 Feb	2.15 p.m.	Mr. H.F. Deakin - Barbados Mr. V.F.H. Smith - The Chalon Heads Venue: STAMPEX (Floral Room 'A')
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Sat.	27 April	2.15 p.m.	AGM and Auction Venue: The Bonnington Hotel
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Autumn	BWISC Convention 40
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1989 ACCOUNTS

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 1989

1988	INCOME	1989
£		£
1506	Subscriptions	1995.00
589	Publications - net surplus	165.25
596	Auction and Miscellaneous donations	709.50
6	Opinion Fees	28.40
-	Convention - net surplus	14.88
251	Interest received, less tax reserve	347.17
-----		-----
£ 2948	TOTAL INCOME	£ 3260.20
	EXPENDITURE	
957	Bulletins : costs less advertising	1064.25
444	: distribution costs	<u>415.85</u>
		1480.10
79	Library : acquisitions	77.70
105	: insurance	111.41
199	: miscellaneous	<u>7.00</u>
		196.11
140	Meetings : room hire less collections	105.00
20	BPF Affiliation Fee	20.00
	Administration : stationery, postages, telephone, photocopying etc. less recoveries	397.78
288		54.79
-	Publicity and Public Relations	
158	Bank charges and miscellaneous expenses	100.89
-----		-----
£ 2390	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 2354.67
558	SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	905.53
-----		-----
£ 2948		£ 3260.20

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 1989

	ACCUMULATED FUND	
6034	Balance at 1.1.89	6591.70
558	Add surplus for the year	905.53
-----		-----
6592		7497.23
(2290)	Less Stocks of Publications at cost	2390.99
-----		-----
£ 4302		£ 5106.24
	REPRESENTED BY:	
5853	Cash at banks, building society and in hand	6184.36
86	Sundry Debtors	321.00
-----		-----
5938		6505.36
(135)	Less: Sundry Creditors 154.87	154.87
(36)	Taxation Reserve	60.00
(1465)	Subscriptions received in advance	1184.25
-----		-----
£ 4302		£ 5106.24

AUDITORS REPORT

"I hereby certify that the Statements of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 1989 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me, and that the Balance Sheet shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst correctly valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, may not have a market value of the sum stated on that date.

The Study Circle is under an obligation to provide a service to certain members until 1992 in respect of subscriptions paid in advance; this liability (if any) cannot be quantified, but in all other respects the finances of the Study Circle as at 31 December 1989 appear to be sound."

Signed: J.A.C. Farmer, FCA, FRPSL

DISPLAYS

At the meeting commencing at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 28th February, 1990, during Stampex in the Floral Room 'A' at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, there were two displays seen by fifteen members and one visitor.

The first display was by John Cooper who showed Windsor Castle Silver Jubilees mainly in complete sheet form.

John started his display and talk by saying that the design chosen was one by Harold Fleury, a Studio Artist from Waterlow and Sons. However, the contract was not with Waterlows and then sub-contracted to De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson, but was a JOINT TENDER, with De La Rue responsible for the issue of paper to all three printers. The intention was that all three would share the production so that each would print around 26 million stamps, and that each printer would have his share of Colonies with high volume demand and low volume demand. Those Colonies furthest away from London had to be printed first to ensure that they were available for sale in the Colony on the due date, generally 6th May for most Colonies.

The cost of the vignette plates charged by the printers was to be £22 per 120 set plate. The sheets were then guillotined prior to Frame printing and certainly in the case of De La Rue guillotined again prior to issuing the sheets. Some Colonies requested the sheets to be numbered where they were destined for the Colony, whereas those sheets destined for the Dealers were never numbered. Some Colonies did not request their sheets to be numbered. In the case of TRINIDAD & TOBAGO the numbering was meaningless being numbered in batches of 50 from 50-1 downwards.

Bradbury Wilkinson used 6 plates 120 set for the vignettes none of which had plate numbers on the issued sheets and the recognised numbering system used is sequentially numbering from 1 upwards as plates were identified. John showed complete sheet examples of 11 plates and a possible 12th. As the plates were paired, whenever one plate occurs for a value for a Colony, its pairing plate must also occur. The pairing is 1 and 3, 2 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 12, 10 and 11. Thus whenever an extra flagstaff occurs for a value so does a lightning conductor, ie) plates 1&3. John will willingly supply details of known plates per value and illustrations of varieties.

For Waterlow 10 plates have now been identified, but it is anticipated that there are still two more plates to be discovered. John has complete sheets of the first 9 and blocks of the 10th. Again the plate numbers never occurred on the sheets and the numbering is again sequential numbering from 1 upwards with plate 2 in two states, 2A and 2B. 2A is the first printing with row 10/6 KITE and VERTICAL LOG, whilst 2B is the plate used for reprinting orders with KITE and HORIZONTAL LOG. The pairing in Waterlow's case was as follows 1 and 3, 2 and 10, 4 and 8, 5 and 9, and hopefully when discovered 11 and 12.

Again John will supply details of plates known and illustrations of varieties.

De La Rue certainly charged the Crown Agents for 6 plates 120 set, but so far only 6 plates of 60 have been discovered. De La Rue were the only one of the three printers to include vignette plate numbers on the sheets below row 10/5. For some Colonies frame plate numbers were also used, these were always either 1 or 1A. If a value for a Colony had a frame plate 1, then all values for that Colony would be frame plate 1, likewise with 1A. Confusingly, the 6 vignette plates known are 2A and 2B, 4 and 4/, and abnormal 2A and abnormal 2B described as (2A) and (2B). These last two plates, totally different from 2A and 2B have different shape lettering and numbers and are positioned much lower below 10/5 so that their plate identification was frequently trimmed off prior to issue.

John has examples of all 6 known plates plus illustrations of varieties and known plates per value per Colony.

It would be greatly appreciated if any member could supply him with details of any plates that they have, either which need identifying or which could add to the lists of known plates. Copies of these lists or charts are held by both the President and the Secretary of the Study Circle.

Simon Goldblatt proposed the vote of thanks and said that he found the display and talk on these stamps most interesting and after a number of points were raised and dealt with by John the meeting clearly showed its esteem.

The second display was by Simon Greenwood who showed a selection of British Guiana postal history. After a quick physical and historical resumé, three items from the 18th century were shown, including the earliest recorded letter after the official postal service commenced. Next came a selection of early Demerara handstamps among which were the only recorded example of the two line type 2, two of the four examples of type 3 and the earliest and latest recorded uses of type 5 with two examples of the same error of date. Several examples of type 9 were shown and a query raised over the dates of use of two types. The selection of Berbice started with a previously unrecorded straightline of 1811. Others included the earliest recorded type 1, the earliest and latest types 5 and 6 and varieties of types 5, 6 and 7. Next came one of the two examples of the type 8 oval ship letter. Several unrecorded handstamps from the G.P.O. records were also illustrated.

The second half of the display started with two 'Colonies & Art' Anglo-French postal convention handstamps with examples of PD, PP, GB/40c and the anchor in lozenge of dots on stamps. Next came one of the two recorded copies of the 'Paid at Demerara' type 2. There followed a selection of ship letter marks and accountancy marks

including several examples of the triplex PA4ID. Then came three of the four recorded 1d rate Soldiers letters followed by a selection of modern F.P.O. covers. Next came the only recorded complete used reply card from Dutch Guiana. There followed a selection of 'Code-mark' cancels including a proving cover from St. Vincent, the earliest recorded use of any mark and a previously unrecorded first series E3C. Also shown were Amacura postmarks from disputed territory, an illustrated example of a complex route from a remote settlement and two interesting Georgetown postmarks, one with the office and colony obliterated and the other a skeleton used after a fire. Finally some official franks were shown including three Governors and a compulsory registration.

Peter Ford proposed a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of the meeting which was well received.

SWINPEX DISPLAY

Nine members and two visitors attended the meeting held at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday, 7th April, 1990 when Chris Barwick gave a display and talk on Montserrat at the Drove Road School at Swindon and an account of the display now follows-

Chris prefaced his display by expressing his preference for mint and unused material and to a special leaning towards die proofs, essays and proofs as being both rare material and also as showing a good deal of the development of the eventual stamp.

Having shown examples of the Antiguan stamps which were overprinted for use in Montserrat, Chris put up the following examples of 1d Red, SG1:

- the original De La Rue Cancelled stamp from their records
- the famous Inverted 'S' error
- what he thought was the largest known block of 42 stamps
- a block of 9 of the inverted watermark variety
- examples of re-entries to stamps 8 and 20, with photographic enlargements for ease of identification
- rare examples of stamps where the overprint "Montserrat" with a bar, was misplaced.

Of the 6d Green, SG 2, Chris showed the following:

- the De La Rue original Cancelled stamp as before
- rare multiples of a block of 4, plus a pair
- an example of the Inverted "S"
- a re-entry of stamp no. 120 with enlargement
- a re-entry of stamp no. 26 with enlargement

There followed an example from the single sheet of 60 of SG 3, which was an attempt to devise a stamp where the overprint would show up better with the contrast of a different shade of green. It was unique to Montserrat and was not a colour used in Antigua.

The first of the Key Plates followed with a collection of Cancelled and Specimen imperforate examples of the halfpenny together with a pair of the actual stamp (SG 4,

twopence halfpenny Red Brown) SG 5, the 4d Blue had examples of the Cancelled stamp, a block of 4 and a reversed watermark. SG 6, Halfpenny Green - imperforate Plate Proof on gummed watermarked paper, the DLR Cancelled stamp, plus the normal stamp was shown together with the continuing 1d red in blocks, with re-entries and misplaced overprints, and the relevant Inverted "S" also shown.

Two examples of the Rose Red were shown, with Chris comparing the very low Stanley Gibbons value with his experience of the real rarity of the stamp in the true Rose Red shade. The display of the Rose Red Inverted "S" therefore was a truly rare stamp - to the degree that it wasn't even catalogued.

The 1884 twopenny halfpenny Red Brown SG 9 was shown and of SG 10 a Specimen, a block of 4 (the largest and one of 4 known) and an inverted watermark.

The great rarity of Montserrat is the 4d Blue which was only in service for a matter of weeks before being withdrawn so as to conform to the recently agreed UPU convention on colours. Chris showed a fine example of this stamp and a forgery by Jean de Sperati together with what Sperati called a "Die Proof". A block of 4 and a Specimen stamp of the Maroon SG 12 followed.

Further examples of the continuing 1d Red followed, with the changing shades: perforations and watermarks were then shown, again showing re-entries and also the SG13a Inverted "S".

A sheet of forgeries were shown, one with a cancellation noted before the stamp was used in Montserrat!

The Postal Stationery was displayed next with one notable item - a hand painted Essay of the un-issued two pence Registered Envelope, on rice paper, dated on the reverse 22 JULY (18) 82.

Chris then shared with us his recent dealings with Mr. Robson Lowe who had needed to see as many Revenue stamps as possible as research for the impending updated Robson Lowe Catalogue. Chris showed a number of Printers Proofs, Imperforate Proofs and examples of the stamps in their various shades - plus a "used" one, compared with the real CDS on a 1883 Bisect cover.

The Edwardian era started with a nice piece of ephemera in the form of an embossed official Government Seal of the Colony. Chris continued with Die Proofs of the 1903 issue; a cut down Master, cleared and uncleared Masters, the device of the colony and the complete set of surround, value and country name die proofs both before and after hardening. It was commented that it is rare to see such complete runs of Die Proofs. A striking set of Imperforate Colour Trials of the halfpenny value on card, on gummed watermarked paper and a Plate Proof too were displayed. A part set of the De La Rue Specimens, Chris's only bargain he claimed followed, plus a set of "Ultramar" Specimens. Some discussion took place as to their place but Chris had included them because they were able to show more definitely than other Specimens, their destination. The 5/- Die Proof, an Imperforate Colour trial and the eventual stamp followed. A complete run of the 1903 Postal Stationery was included, including the Specimens.

Of the 1903 - 8 only a complete sheet was displayed as on the watermark differed from the previous issue. Chris had in fact shown complete sheets of most issues and

continued to do so, again an unusual feature but seeing a full sheet seemed to show the design more graphically.

The 1908 Device of the Colony followed with the De La Rue Specimens in evidence some shades, flaws and blocks plus the 3d “White Back”, including the Specimen.

The King George issues started with the Master uncleared Die Proof, a larger one with the addition of the Value Tablet, plus more Value Die Proofs. War Tax issues benefitted from the showing of the De Landre Charity seals, the only vaguely ephemera-like material associated with the island. They were accompanied by the Specimen and normal stamps. Die Proofs and Specimens of the 1922-29 issues again progressed through the Die Proofs, 6 of the 9 known Die Proofs of which only two sets are known, complete sheets, the red brown Imperforate Plate Proofs and examples of the newly perforated Specimen stamps which were an attempt to improve the security of these issues.

Chris then proceeded to share with his audience his liking for the 1932 Tercentenary of the island’s discovery by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage. He showed a photographic essay of the two pence-halfpenny and then a series of die proofs - a Master Die proof with blank value tablets on wove unwatermarked paper, a halfpenny in a Trial Colour, blue, on the same paper, a couple of 6d Colour Trials in blue and a very fine complete set of 10 Die Proofs in the colours of the issued stamps, one of two known sets. There was another Colour Trial, this time of the 1d green and a small piece from the De La Rue record books. A set of both the Specimens and the normal stamps were shown together with a complete sheet of 25 of the 1d. red.

There followed a miscellany of items - a set of the 1935 Silver Jubilee Specimens with an illustration from the catalogue showing straight line perforated “Specimen” whereas the perforations are in the form of a saddleback.

- an impression of the embossed Seal of the Colony which was a frontispiece for the King George issues
- a set of imperforate Specimens one of 4 sets known, as well as a deep lake shade of the 1d.
- a set of photographic essays of the 1938 definitives, followed by a set of the Specimens with King Farouk’s ‘chop’ imprinted on the reverse of each stamp, showing that they once resided in the collection of that monarch.
- an official folder issued to attenders of the 1947 Congress Postal Universal in Paris.

Chris ended his display with some more modern items - a proof of an un-issued Dickens stamp and another hand painted one, again unissued, for a CARIFTA stamp, and, finally a 1c Churchill stamp with the red missing, one of four known.

Victor Toeg proposed the vote of thanks to Chris and said that this was a difficult and rarely seen country and that the display was particularly interesting in the circumstances because of its strength in the proof material shown. All present showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

CHEESE AND WINE SOCIAL

Our President, Victor beg, in his short speech of welcome said we were to enjoy ourselves and this we certainly did. The venue, The Royal Horse Guards Thistle Hotel in Whitehall Court provided us with a very generous supply of cheese and wine in a delightful setting in the Thames Suite overlooking the river.

The function was attended by almost 80 members, wives and friends from all parts of the country and abroad and we were delighted to have members from the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group join us on this occasion.

It was an evening where old friendships were renewed and new ones made but regrettably in the two allotted hours it was impossible to converse with everyone. I am sure that all members who attended would like to express their appreciation and thanks to the Committee for arranging such an excellent evening.

Basil B. Benwell



Left to Right:
Anthony Fields,
Victor and Mrs.
Toog.



Left to Right:
Simon Goldblatt,
Ed Addiss, Mrs.
Nathan, Charles
Freeland and
Derek Nathan

BCPSG CONVENTION



Left to Right:

Michael Oliver,
Michael Hamilton,
Jay Fredrick and
Edmund Bayley



Left to Right:

Edmund Bayley,
Forrest D. Harris,
R.C. (Dick) Mounsey
and Keith Bayley.

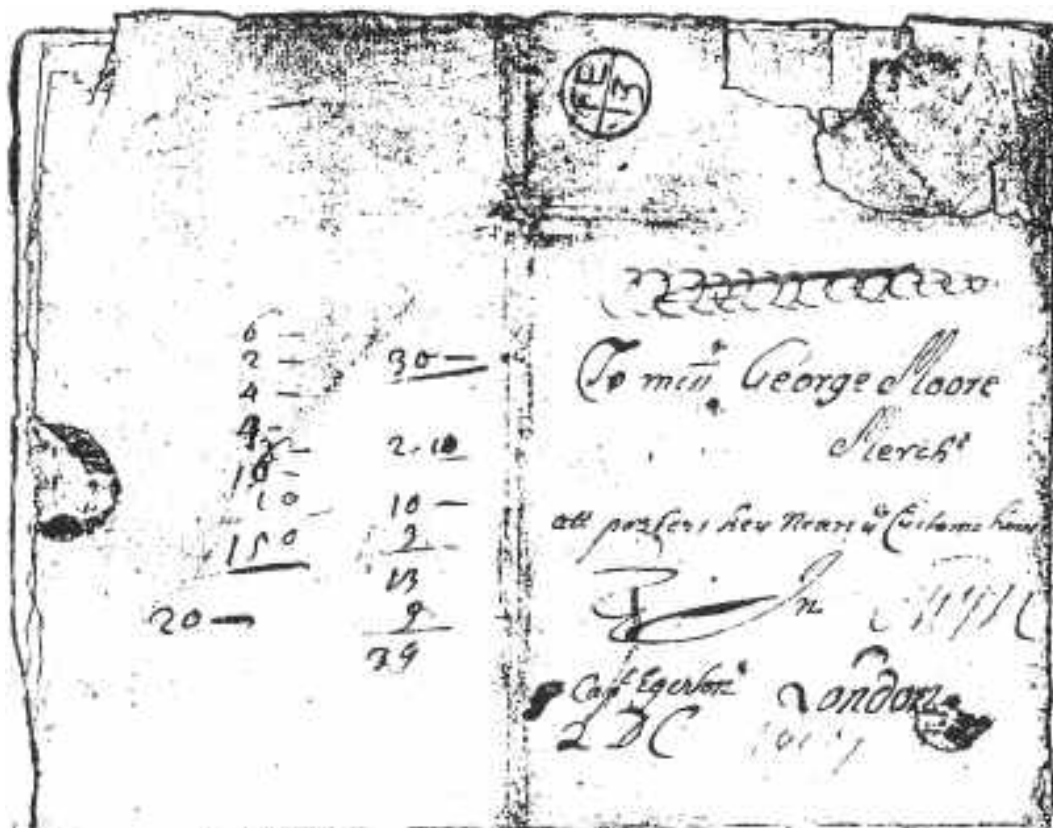
On Wednesday, May 9th, the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group held their Convention at the Lansdowne Club, Fitzmaurice Place, Berkeley Square, London, when approximately 70 members and guests attended.

The morning session was devoted entirely to business reports and to the allocation of awards to members who were exhibiting at Stamp World London 90. In the afternoon, Dr. Joan Harper gave a most entertaining and instructive display on the Postal History and Stamps of British Honduras. This was followed by members Cameo displays on many diverse subjects.

To those members not living in the States, the Convention was extremely beneficial as it gave us an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to make new friends. An enjoyable time was had by one and all.

Alex Thomson

ANTIGUA



Early Antigua Letter

Earlier this year, I was fortunate in obtaining an entire from Antigua dated October 4th, 1694. The entire, which is shown, pushes back the frontiers of the Antigua postal system into the 17th. Century and compliments the letter of this period already in the possession of our President, Mr.E.V. Toeg.

This new letter from Law Crabb to George Moore “att porters key neare ye Customs House” in London, has a London Bishop mark FE/13 and deals with the problems of sending as much merchandise as he would wish.

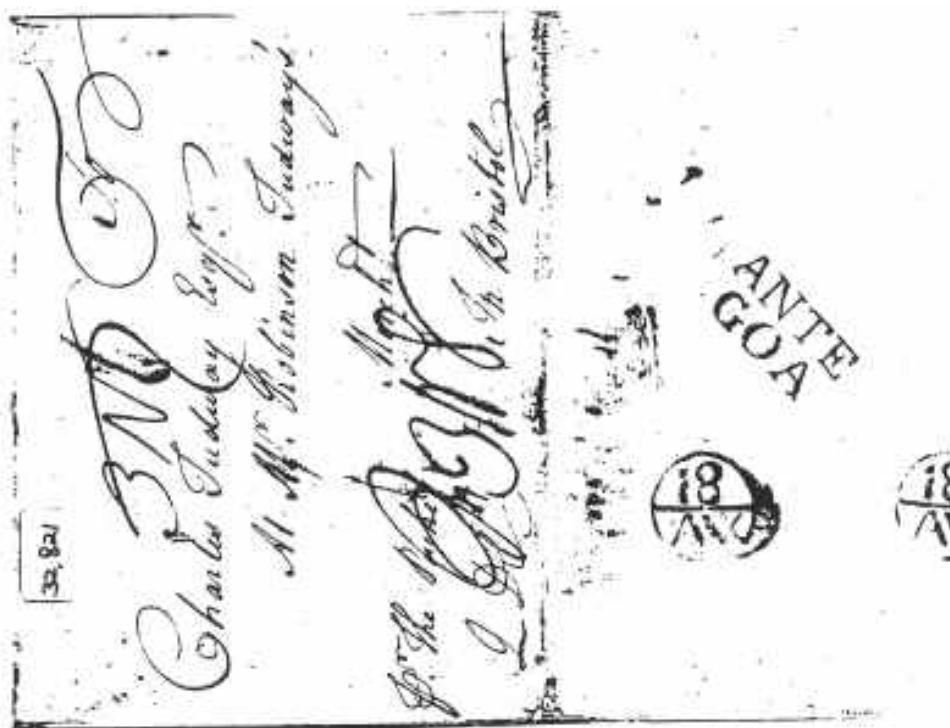
Although no postal charge is shown on the letter the rate would be governed by the 1688 Order in Council whereby a charge of 6d was levied on a single sheet letter.

Alex Thomson

ANTIGUA

Two Line Handstamp

As if to remind the sceptics that postal history continues to provide the most exciting source of potential discoveries, the illustration shows a previously unrecorded two-line handstamp (reading 'ANTE/GOA') on a packet letter to Bristol.



The dateline on the enclosed letter (24th. May 1757) is exceedingly early. It is to my knowledge the earliest recorded mark of any West Indian territory apart from two or three. For example, although Barbados was relatively well developed in the 18th. Century and quite a number of letters are recorded in the 1760s, the earliest known bearing a Barbados mark (a similar two-line mark to that illustrated) is reputed to be 27th. December 1760 (from the Fitzherbert correspondence sold by Cavendish in April 1989). I have read of a 1747 letter with this mark, but it has not been corroborated. Indeed the only handstamps I am aware of which predate the Antigua cover are the two-line ST. CHRIS/TOPHERS from the Unwick Collection and the Jamaica single line J1 mark recorded by Foster (both dated 1746).

I should record that the Antigua letter to Charles Tudway, presumably an ancestor (father?) of Clement Tudway of Wells, is a routine estate letter and the Bishop mark of arrival shows a travel time of 85 days.

Charles Freeland

BAHAMAS

Bahamas Reply Card

A recent purchase of the item illustrated, although philatelic, is most interesting to me.

The optimistic Mr. King sent this pre-printed Reply Postcard from Brighton, England on the 30th. June 1971 to Steventon Post office in the Bahamas. It arrived on the 24th. August. I wonder why the card was retained until 24th. Sept. (a month) before it was returned. Was it for verification regarding the nature of the request printed on the card? Unfortunately the card does not have any arrival mark when received back in England.



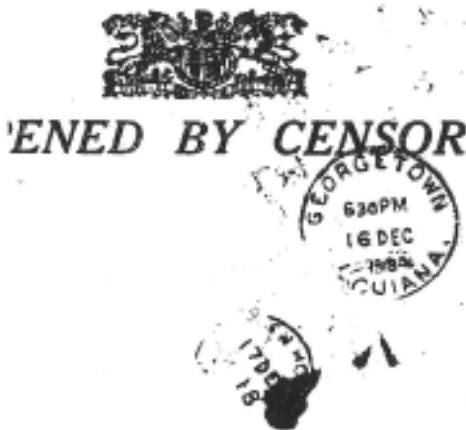
I wonder how much success was had with these cards, what percentage were returned, are there any cards known from other islands? I would be most interested to hear from other members if they have come across similar types.

BRITISH GUIANA

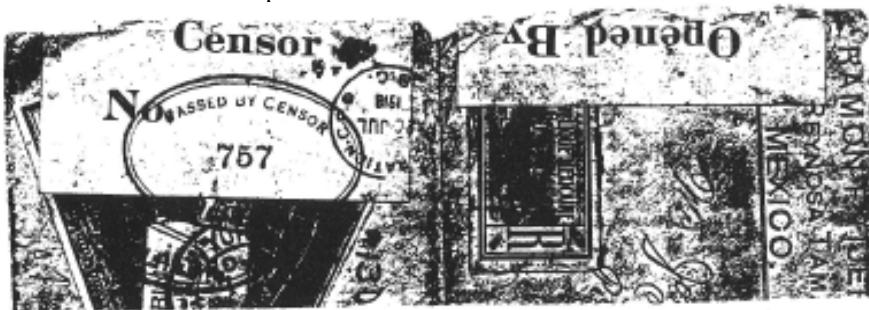
W.W.1 Civil Censorship

In the literature that I have available, I can find no reference to civil censorship during W.W.1. I have two covers with different censor labels on incoming covers and both seem to have been applied in Georgetown.

1. Inwards from India, Nurree 21 Sept 1918 to Georgetown with small double circle 'Passed Censor Bombay' on the front. However this handstamp is partly covered by 'Opened by Censor' label tied by Georgetown cancel 16 Dec 1918 and also backstamped Vreed en Hoop 17 December 1918.



2. Inwards from Mexico 25 Je 1918 via Texas and New York. 'Opened by Censor' label tied by Registration B.G.cancel 20? July 1918 and double ring oval 'Passed by censor 757' handstamp.



Note that neither of these cancels are tied by cancels of other countries which one would expect if the labels had been applied elsewhere.

Can any reader provide any information about these items or W.W.1 censorship in B.G. in general?

Rob Colacino

BRITISH GUIANA

Code Marks DRE 1 and DRE

These are not among the most common village marks, Townsend and Howe have seen three strikes of each, 1874-76 for DRE and Aug-Oct 1879 for DRE 1. They surmise that the normal method of numbering, from Demerara outwards along the delivery route, was not used on the East Bank, but recent discoveries raise some doubts and suggest to me that the standard numbering was also in use here.

I have three relevant strikes:- DRE 1 for OC 28 1879, AGRICOLA type 1 for MR 27 78 and DE 17 78. It may be remembered that Townsend and Howe did not see a dated strike of Agricola and assumed that it was introduced after October 1879, even though the office was closed on 1st Jan 1880.

The Gazette in 1877 refers to Post Offices at Agricola end GROVE (although the office itself may have been on the Great Diamond plantation, next to the village, at this time). It the DRE code had been allocated to Agricola, 2 miles from Oemerara, between 1871 and 1874 and replaced by Agricola c.d.s. between 1876 and 1878, and the DRE1 to Great Diamond (Grove, 8 miles from Demerara, sometime after 1871 and used until the Grove c.d.s. type 2a was supplied in 1880 or 1881, this would be consistent with all the known strikes and with the normal system of route numbering. The fact that there are no DRE 1 strikes earlier than 1879 is counter-balanced by there being only three strikes known altogether.

Could members please re-examine their copies of all four of these strikes with a view of confirming or rubbingish this theory?

Derek Nathan

DOMINICA

Slogan Handstamp

A recent purchase of several commercial covers of the 1970 period has brought to light a two-line hand applied slogan “VISIT DOMINICA B.W.I./LAND OF NATURAL BEAUTY”.

Figure 1 shows the mark measuring 43mm x 7.5mm with the letters 2.5mm high. The eight covers depicting this mark are dated from 29-DE-69 up to 20-MY-70. The handstamp seems to have deteriorated quite considerably over this period.

Figure 2 measures 53mm x 8mm with the letters 3mm high. The covers with this mark are dated from 17-OC-70 up to 7-DE-70.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Can other members extend these dates and were these handstamps used in other years?

GEORGE V - Universal Key Plate No. 1

Continued from Bulletin 145 p. 33



Fig.4

Option 4

There were three plates, each 120 set and numbered '1', one with plate numbers in the top margin only, the second with numbers on the bottom only and the third with numbers on both top and bottom margins.

4.1 Plates 3, 4 and 5 were made in 1915, and from then until c. 1936 DLR always had at least three keyplates in use concurrently. All plates were 120 set (with the exception of plates 14, 15, 24 and 25 which were 100 set and unique to Straits Settlements).

These three plates were used as follows:-

- i) one was a general plate employed for those colonies ordering 120 set sheets. These plates usually featured plate numbers in both top and bottom margins, although there were exceptions.
- ii) the second was used principally as one half of a combined plate for 240 set printing, although it was used occasionally for 120 set printing when the general plate was either also in use, or not available.
- iii) the third was used almost exclusively as the other half of a combined plate for 240 set printing.

The latter two plates always had numbers in either top or bottom margin, never in both.

This pattern of later usage provides much support for this particular option.

There are therefore pros and cons for each of the four options, which merely serve to create doubt and confusion without resolving any of the questions raised. I appeal to BWI members for further substantiating evidence, either from examples or references to philatelic literature which might shed more light on this intriguing problem. In particular:

- a) P1.1 sheets, panes or strips showing plate numbers on the top and bottom margins of the same sheet. This would prove beyond doubt the existence of the second plate mentioned by Huber.

The first Leeward Is. printings of ¼d, ½d, 1d and 2½d, and the St Lucia complete series were printed shortly after the first Cayman values and may therefore also exist in this format.

- b) Top margin P1.1 examples from any proven post mid-1913 printing (plate 1 was in use until approximately May 1915). These would include the following whose first P1.1 printing was after this date:-

Cayman Is.	3d, 1/- and 10/- white backs	Oct. 13
Cayman Is.	2½d and 5/-	May. 14
Cayman Is.	3d (on yell.) and 10/- (green back)	Oct. 14
Leeward Is.	3d, 1/- and 5/- white backs	Oct. 13
Leeward Is.	any 2/6 value (1st ptg. Oct. 13)	Sep. 14
Leeward Is.	5/- (on yell.)	

- c) A top Plate 1 example of any Virgin Is. value. Such an example would disprove Hubers assertion that these were printed from the lower plate only.
- d) A means of differentiating between the 120 and 240 set plates as in Option 3 above (again, if the 120 exists).
- e) Positive evidence of the '240' set plate being either one plate or two separate halves.

My own belief is that plate 1 (240 set) did consists of two separate halves, which were used both separately and, in a few instances, combined. They should perhaps be termed Plates 1a and 1b. The existence of the second 120 set plate 1 (P1.1c?) mentioned by Huber, with numbers in top and bottom margins, is plausible but has yet to be proven.

I could, however, easily be swayed one way or the other by fresh information.

Peter Fernbank

JAMAICA

Kingston Large Squared Circle

This cancel was used on the “Falls” issue 1900. The indices known to date are: A2, C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, H2, I2, K2, L2, M2, N2, O2, Q2 and R2.

TYPE 3 LARGE TYPE - Issued 1900. THREE CIRCLES with inner circle 25mm diameter, also a STAR enclosed either side. ONE ARC only and apex; INDICES composed of the ARABIC NUMERAL "2" preceded by a single letter.



Index H 2

LARGE ISSUE
ONE ARC.

It is not a common postmark and it proved quite difficult to assemble enough copies to mount up. However, I got together some 16 copies and noticed, in the main, that they were used in either October 1900 or February 1901.

This made me think, so I contacted various people I knew who also collected postmarks and obtained from them the details of their holdings. The results are quite fascinating.

Large “Squared Circle” Postmark of Kingston

	October 1900	Various 1900	Various 1901	February 1901
A2		07-09-00 08-09-00 29-09-00 17-11-00	09-01-01 14-01-01 29-05-01 29-05-01	
C2	27-10-00	07-12-00		18-02-01, 26-02-01
D2	14-10-00, 27-10-00			12-02-01, 15-02-01 23-02-01
E2			12-12-01	16-02-01
F2	05-10-00, 11-10-00 23-10-00			11-02-01, 18-02-01 18-02-01, 26-02-01
G2	06-10-00, 15-10-00 20-10-00, 27-10-00			12-02-01
H2	06-10-00			06-02-01
I2	04-10-00, 04-10-00			14-02-01
K2	22-10-00			09-02-01, 27-02-01
L2	08-10-00, 08-10-00 13-10-00, 20-10-00	08-09-00	01-03-01	09-02-01, 10-02-01
M2	12-10-00, 19-10-00			09-02-01, 14-02-01 18-02-01, 21-02-01 23-02-01
N2	18-10-00	17-12-00		
O2	06-10-00, 13-10-00 14-10-00			14-02-01, 27-02-01
Q2	08-10-00			06-02-01, 11-02-01 14-02-01, 21-02-01 28-02-01
R2	03-10-00			
	26 Total Oct 1900	13 Total Not Oct. 1900 or Feb. 1901		29 Total Feb. 1901

No examples to date known of B2, J2, P2 and S2 to Z2.

I have details of 68 copies all dated, of these 26 were used in the month of October 1900 and 29 were used in February 1901. All these fit together quite neatly, with some quite strange results.

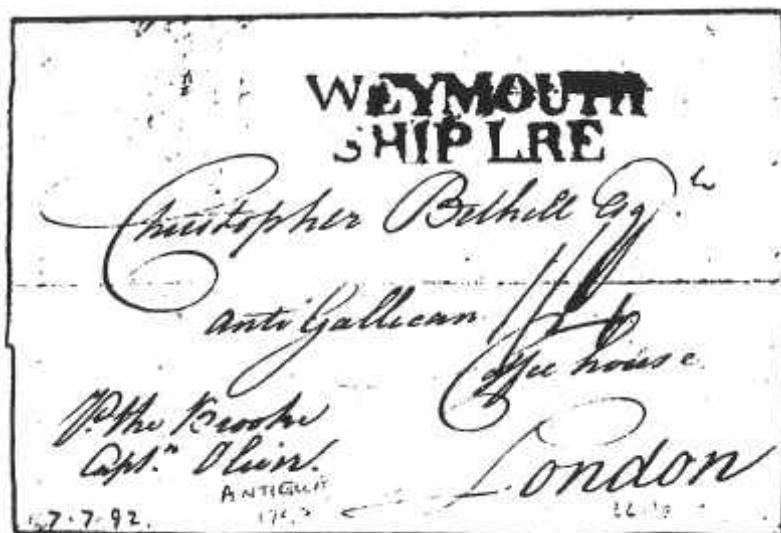
There are eight extra dated copies none of which fit the pattern. They are all "A2". Thus from a sample of 63 dated copies a pattern emerges, EXCEPT, we also have 5 "rogue" numbers which don't fit any pattern. Are these mistakes of use or is the whole thing a figment of my mind?

Why should these months be singled out? I should love to know the results.

Bob Swarbrick

SHIP LETTER RATES

The investigation of the postal rate on early letters can be extremely interesting but it can also be very frustrating. A typical example of this frustration is a ship letter which I have recently acquired. The single sheet letter was sent from Antigua per the Brooke, Capt. Oliver, on 7th. July 1792 and landed at Weymouth for onward transmission to London (Bishop mark AU 21 92). Postage of 1s.4d. has been levied. This postage rate seems to be out of all proportion for the year.



By the P.O. Notice 5th. April 1792 the postage rate was made up of the Captain's Gratuity, 1d., plus the inland postage from the port of entry to destination via London. The inland rate from Weymouth to London was 5d. which with the Captain's Gratuity makes a total charge of 6d. This seems a far cry from the 1s. 4d. charged. Has any member an explanation for this anomaly?

Alex Thomson

VIRGIN ISLANDS

A De La Rue Mistake

I recently came across a reference in the Colonial Office Journal of January 1917 which stated that “The 1d and 3d stamps overprinted ‘War Stamp’ were supplied from both plates No. 1 and No. 5. Each printing shows a distinct shade of colour.”

Curious as to why plate 1 had been used long after its last use (May 1915), but suspecting that the plate 1 sheets had been supplied for overprinting by the Crown Agents from a previous printing, I consulted the De La Rue records. The Private Day books merely detailed the supply of 302 sheets of the 1d and 200 sheets of the 3d (each 120 set) on the 26th Sept. 1916. However, the Colonial Stamp books (from which the Day Book invoices were raised) contained the answer I was looking for, and in addition revealed details of a rare mistake on the part of De La Rue.

The story started over two years earlier when the Virgin Is. requisitioned for supplies of all values (½d to 5/-) of the current Leeward Is. issue. At that time, in common with other Presidencies of the Leeward Is. both the Presidency and the Leeward Is. issues were in use concurrently. Of these only Virgin Is. shared the use of the KG.V Universal keyplate design with the Leewards design, the duty plate alone differentiating the two issues.

The CS book entry of June 25th 1914 (folio 25) reads:-

			Quantity sent to Colony
Virgin Islands	Post & Rev.	½d	200
(Requ.) 56/14	Leeward Islands	1d	204
		2d	101
		2½d	102
Despatched Sept 30 1914		3d	79
		6d	50
		1/-	42
		2/6	32
		5/-	21

Notes were appended to this entry as follows:-

“The stamps had to be re-printed as the first lot were printed from the Virgin Is. plate. The Officer has been asked to retain them.

A cheque for 8/10 sent to CA’s March 24th 1915. Value of paper to be refunded to us if stamps are sent to the colony.”

A further note refers to folio’s 101 and 109 where the ½d, and later the 1d and 3d, were sent to the colony.

Folio 101 for Virgin Is, Requ.56/16 (despatched 9th June 1916) for 203 sheets of the ½d value states

“The stamps are already printed in officers hands. See page 25. We are to be paid for paper.”

A refund for 1/6 for paper was claimed. All these were supplied from the earlier plate 1 printing of R.56/14.

Folio 109 for Requ.81/16 (despatched 23rd Sept 1916) for 302 sheets of the 1d and 200 sheets of the 3d, both overprinted War Stamp', states "Portion of each of the above already printed see folio 25". A paper refund of 2/- was claimed.

Assuming the 1d and 3d quantities already held by the CA were as those printed for R.56/14 (subject to the spoilage factor allowance), the 1d delivery consisted of 204 sheets from plate 1 and 98 sheets from plate 5, whilst the 3d was made up of 79 sheets from plate 1 and 121 sheets from plate 5.

The officer mentioned was presumably that of the Crown Agents, who evidently held the mistakenly printed stock of Virgin Is. stamps from R.56/14 pending future possible requirements. With the exception of the ½d, 1d and 3d the Virgin Is. required no further values of the Universal keyplate design after 1914. The remaining values held by the CA were probably destroyed when the issue became obsolete in 1922.

Peter Fernbank

1990 AUCTION REPORT

We shall never know how many auction catalogues went astray this year, or arrived so late as to be valueless. They were all posted at the beginning of March; and to prove it, a bid arrived from the South Pacific before the middle of the month. It was a false dawn. After that there was virtual silence from outside Europe; only in the last week did some letter arrive from the U.S.A. - a bare half-dozen bidders when there are four times as many stalwarts upon whom we can usually count. Our sincere apologies to our friends in America, Australia, the Far East and elsewhere. You will understand now that the postal fiasco wasn't our fault.

Thus Auction Day started inauspiciously with a mere 40 bidders on the book. It wasn't until the Committee opened the doors to our waiting members that we realised that we had a special occasion on our hands. There were Ed Addiss and Bill Ashley from the U.S.A.; Edmund and Keith Bayley from Barbados; Michel Forand from Canada; Charles Freeland from Switzerland; Peter Jaffé from Australia. Distinguished company indeed! And after the turmoil and glitter of our auction, perhaps some of them might even have been tempted to stay on for the Stamp World 1990.

So it was a mixture of good news and bad. Let's talk next of the countries that didn't do well, for every territory has its poor years. Virgin Islands had 18 lots on offer, and only three of them sold. This had nothing to do with quality, for the unsolds included two proofs, a lovely used copy of the 4d surcharge, good forgeries (are there good forgeries?), plated 1d greens, and other difficult material. It just wasn't the season for this group of islands - perhaps we now know why Stanley Gibbons promoted them in the alphabet.

Another moderate performer was Grenada, where only 8 lots sold out of 27, and even Jeffreys forgeries did not.

Now for the good news, at least for the postmark collectors of Bermuda and Trinidad. Lot 98 (the K1 '5') opened at a modest £48 'on the book'; and on the book it stayed, but only after a desperate buyer in the room had run the price up to £150. Lot 105 was the next to startle - indeed it was the hit of the whole sale. Numerals '6 and '8' are fairly common in type K4a; not on the 2d brown-purple, it seems. With no competition from the book, the bidding opened at £15, and didn't end till three figures was reached. Thirty-seven rounds of bidding had the auctioneer switching from side to side, as if watching the rally of the match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon. It was almost anticlimax when lot 107 ('7' on 3d yellow) barely doubled its estimate at £58.

Trinidad contained two postmark rarities. The second, lot 440, T12 on a 1d surcharge, did well enough to fetch £52, against an estimate of £40. Before that had come lot 434, the very rare first-type '17', which was in a class of its own. As it turned out, there was a book bid of £200, which anyone would have thought high enough to capture the prize; and so it seemed had happened when the bidding climbed up to that level and --- hovered. Just as the hammer was coming down, the buyer in the room gave one last desperate nod, and the book was beat. Our records do not show a higher price than £210 for a postmark on a single stamp, and maybe they never will again.

Spirited, competitive bidding was what characterized this year's auction. 'B' was the 'in' letter of the alphabet, with consistent demand for everything between Bahamas and British Guiana. Even so, one or two quality lots from Barbados - such as postage due material, and unusual postcards - would have done better had we had our full complement of bids from overseas. The Revenue 4d, however, fully justified its scarcity rating (lot 72); £36 is a healthy price for a low value fiscal stamp.

Once in a while we estimate a stamp at above its catalogue price. Such was the case with a used copy of SG 238 of British Guiana. This little seen 60c stamp had a low printing anyway, and is normally found unused, or else it has been fiscally used, and an unauthorised cancellation has been super-imposed. Lot 141 was healthy, and we valued it at £75 against a catalogue listing at £10 less; but the hawks had gathered, for the bidding started at £80 and finished at £110. British Guiana has become deservedly popular, and we draw special attention to the realisations for difficult postmark items between lots 134 and 137 at least four different bidders were fighting over these. Consider too our MISSENT TO BRITISH GUIANA cover (lot 147). Modestly estimated, it was far from overpriced at the £42 that it fetched.

Other countries to Jamaica produced fairly average results. Then came 'Esk' on as 6d value of Leeward Is. (lot 283). There was a ripple of interest; one felt that the winner, at £42, might easily have had to pay much more. The FEES plate proofs (lot 291-2) each realised £65 and, despite a few unsolds, one sensed that Leewards stamps are emerging from their doldrum years.

The scarce Montserrat 4d (lot 314) found a buyer at £250; and there was a contest behind the scenes in Nevis, where lot 335, the cross-on-hill variety, opened and closed at £70. Next, an apparently modest £16.50 for lot 337 revealed that manuscript village date marks on St. Christopher are now rocketing up and away. Four minutes afterwards the Circle's own modest offering of lots 352-5 had each found a new, happy home.

Viewed as statistics, sales from St. Lucia onwards might be seen as fairly average, with few peaks and troughs. The auctioneer's book showed a different picture. In one block of 75 lots only 10 were covered in advance of the sale by bids received in the post: in the event, 39 of these sold. It was record enthusiasm from a record number of members present, and in the end a record auction result. 14 individual lots realised £100 or more; and eight of our members each spent more than £300. The sale total, at the time of writing, is £7959; and post-auction sales could yet send the figure over £8,000. Well done, B.W.I.S.C.

Prices realised follow (unsold lots omitted)

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
2	3.00	3	9.00	8	27.00	10	7.50	11	13.00
12	15.00	14	7.50	15	25.00	16	23.00	19	115.00
22	27.00	23	21.00	27	9.00	33	31.00	34	27.00
35	46.00	36	120.00	37	30.00	38	19.00	39	10.00
40	32.00	41	21.00	43	15.00	45	16.00	46	10.00
47	190.00	50	290.00	51	36.00	53	18.00	56	23.00
57	12.00	58	23.00	61	100.00	62	18.00	65	46.00
66	12.00	67	31.00	68	31.00	69	13.50	71	8.00
72	36.00	73	33.00	74	46.00	75	6.00	77	15.00
80	13.50	81	10.00	84	12.00	86	13.50	87	18.00
88	24.00	89	26.00	91	25.00	93	21.00	94	46.00
95	20.00	97	12.50	98	150.00	99	42.00	101	10.50
102	15.00	103	15.00	104	5.25	105	100.00	106	12.00
107	58.00	108	18.00	109	27.00	110	11.00	111	11.50
112	18.00	114	10.00	116	15.50	119	16.50	121	65.00
122	11.50	123	90.00	124	14.00	129	110.00	130	14.00
131	21.00	132	21.00	134	80.00	135	42.00	136	26.00
137	26.00	138	15.00	139	25.00	140	46.00	141	110.00
142	28.00	144	65.00	147	42.00	149	4.00	150	70.00
151	21.00	154	52.00	155	23.00	156	19.00	160	12.00
161	5.50	166	30.00	167	9.00	170	16.50	171	60.00
176	25.00	180	35.00	181	30.00	182	16.00	183	9.00
184	20.00	185	21.00	187	28.00	189	25.00	192	20.00
197	15.00	200	4.00	201	44.00	202	12.00	203	14.50
204	8.00	205	1.50	206	5.50	208	27.00	213	12.00
214	55.00	221	4.50	222	45.00	224	13.50	228	13.50
233	25.00	234	44.00	235	26.00	239	23.00	241	11.00
242	24.00	244	22.00	249	5.50	250	9.00	252	11.50
253	15.50	254	19.00	255	17.50	256	19.00	257	12.00
260	7.50	261	33.00	263	35.00	269	13.50	272	13.50
275	46.00	282	12.50	283	42.00	284	12.00	285	23.0
288	10.00	289	15.50	291	65.00	292	65.00	293	44.00
296	30.00	297	33.00	298	15.00	299	48.00	305	52.00
307	56.00	309	52.00	312	15.00	314	250.00	316	23.00
317	13.00	319	9.00	320	16.50	321	6.00	322	9.00

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
326	14.00	331	23.00	333	15.50	335	70.00	337	21.00
342	16.50	343	30.00	344	28.00	345	8.00	347	26.00
348	19.00	349	19.00	352	2.25	353	1.25	354	2.75
355	2.25	356	46.00	357	65.00	360	21.00	362	11.50
363	21.00	364	6.00	365	15.50	366	3.00	369	29.00
370	8.50	371	15.00	372	16.00	373	16.00	374	33.00
376	6.50	378	5.25	383	60.00	386	30.00	387	33.00
388	12.00	389	21.00	391	16.50	392	10.00	394	6.00
395	14.00	396	190.00	397	44.00	399	13.50	402	3.00
404	27.00	407	13.50	409	15.00	410	19.00	415	12.00
416	19.00	417	15.00	418	40.00	421	33.00	425	20.00
427	24.00	431	4.50	433	28.00	434	210.00	435	75.00
437	12.00	439	15.00	440	52.00	441	10.00	442	8.00
443	19.00	444	9.00	448	14.00	450	7.50	451	80.00
452	7.50	458	22.00	459	13.50	460	15.00	462	120.00
463	180.00	466	42.00	467	8.00	468	15.00	469	12.00
471	17.00	472	9.00	474	42.00	487	12.00	488	12.00
492	36.00	493	10.50	496	20.00	497	10.50	498	10.00
499	8.00	500	9.00						

To end with a few statistics: 29 room bidders registered to take part in the sale - 28 of them made purchases. Of our postal bidders, only 7 failed to secure at least one lot. 14 individual lots realised £100 or above; and of 23 buyers to spend at least £100, 11 spent £200 or more. Finally, while we never give details of bids on the book until these are beaten, there were a number of lots sold for only about half what the buyer was willing to pay, and one lot was knocked down to the happy buyer at over £250 less than our limit.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

The Librarian is not quite sure how to classify the latest addition, which consists of a 45 minute VHS video tape made by Steven Jarvis and Ken Bolton featuring the display given by Ken at the Convention at Leamington last October.

The subject is the 1919-27 pictorial Issue of Jamaica and great trouble has been taken, not only to record the talk and votes of thanks, but to inter-cut it with close-ups of important pieces, with Ken adding explanations as required.

Through the good offices of Peter Fernbank, the library has received photostats of material in the National Postal Museum from the De La Rue archives which may be of interest to members. Apart from mint blocks of four of all issues, it is strong in proofs,

colour trails and essays, although it must be stressed that all the material is monochrome. These sheets have now been edited and filed in the various country scrap books and consist of the following:-

Bahamas	19 sheets
Barbuda	2 sheets
Dominica	Not yet received
Leeward Islands	18 sheets
Montserrat	19 sheets
Nevis	3 sheets
St. Christopher	4 sheets
St. Kitts-Nevis	22 sheets
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	3 sheets
Virgin Islands	26 sheets

We have also purchased the sale catalogue of the Charlton-Henry sale of 1961, Part 1. Previously only the catalogue of the second part was in the library.

The Circle is grateful for these items which are now available to Members on the same terms as all other items in the library.

Derek Nathan

NEWS ROUND UP

Tony Farmer will be giving a display of his Leeward Islands collection to the Merseyside Philatelic Society on Monday 29th. October 1990. The society meets at The Audio Visual Room, Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool between 7.00 and 9.00pm and any of our members will be made most welcome should they wish to go along.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

New Members

Allman, W.S.	828 Arrow Lane, Ridgwood, New Jersey 07450, U.S.A.	-
Borromeo, F.	Riva Paradiso 32, CH-6900 Lugano, Switzerland.	-
Bustard, R.J.	57 Athlone Avenue, Oldhams Estate, Bolton, Lancs BL1 6QT.	ANT; STL
Forster, D.	P.O. Box 686, Portland, Oregon 97207, U.S.A.	-
Lovell, P.	Willows, Woodfield Lane, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 0ES.	-
Maughan, C.W.	6 Broadhill Close, Broad Oak, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8SG.	MA (inter-island and UK-BWI) and PB
Ruggle, R.E.	65 Lynden Circle, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4Y7.	Jamaican Post Offices

Address Changes

Mould, B.J.	43 Road, Lipson, Plymouth, Devon PL4 7NE.
Oliver, N	Back Lane Cottage, Great Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9NA.
Oxley, H.M.	9 Manor Drive, Hilton, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 9LE.
Watts, N.	9 Hill Rise Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 0AF.

Deceased

Leckie, P.D.

Reinstated in good standing

R. Ailwood, D.A. Barr, H.M. Black, I.W. Jefferson, S.H.J.A. Knot, N.J. Nethersole, R.J. Paley, A.M. Pitts

Membership of the Study Circle has been suspended in respect of the following, due to non-payment of their Subscription for 1990.

J.W. Baker, N. Brassler, R.L. Davis, H. Godwin, J. Keresztesy, T.J. Lovell, K. Saunders, L. Weinstein, Sir P.J. Womersley.

The following members, formerly suspended, are now DROPPED from membership.

A.R. Wilde, D. Birley, R.G. Bond, C. Cohen, T.A. Dickinson, J.O. Griffiths, Mrs. E.K. de Keyser, A.J. Morris, A.G. Muir, Mrs. B.D. Vincent.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

All the following are available from the Hon. Treasurer.

Note: All prices quoted are retail and include post and packaging. Discounts to members are given in brackets and apply to STERLING prices only. Unless stated otherwise ALL despatches will be by SURFACE MAIL. Make sterling cheques/P.O.'s payable to "B.W.I.S.C.". US dollar cheques MUST be made payable to "Mark W. Swetland" but sent to the Hon. Treasurer with orders.

PUBLICATIONS

"INDEX TO BULLETINS Nos. 1-100 of the BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE" compiled by E.V. Toeg. Softbound, 182mm x 120mm, 41pp.

Price: UK, Europe (Air), & elsewhere overseas (printed paper rate) £5.25; USA (Air printed paper rate) US - \$9.50; (NO Discount)

"THE HISTORY OF THE SAILING PACKETS TO THE WEST INDIES" by L.E. Britnor. Hardbound, Qto, 172pp plus Index, 18 illustrations and 5 maps.

Price: UK - £12.00; Europe & Overseas - £14.00. US - \$25.00 (Members discount £2.00)

"BARBADOS POST OFFICE MARKINGS TO 1981" by Clarke, Radford & Cave. Hardbound, Qto. 71pp profusely illustrated. A limited numbered Edition.

Price: UK - £16.00; Europe & Overseas - £17.00 US - \$30.00 (Members discount £2.00)

"LEEWARD ISLANDS PHILATELY 1897 SEXAGEMARY OVERPRINT & ITS FORGERIES" by J.A.C. Farmer. Spiral (plastic) bound; 24pp; enlarged illustrations.

Price: UK & Europe £5.00; elsewhere (by air) £6.00; US - \$11.00 (NO Discount)

"ST KITTS-NEVIS INTERIM STUDY OF THE KG VI KEY-TYPE STAMPS 1938-50" by Baldwin. A4 format, 27pp, single side printing, illustrated, spiral bound.

Price: UK & Europe £3.00; Europe (air) £3.50; Overseas - (surface mail) £3.50; (air-printed paper) £4.50; US - \$8.00; (air letter) £6.00 US - \$10.50; (NO Discount)

BULLETINS AND BINDERS

Bulletins - Copies of Bulletins from No. 69 (June 1971) onwards (and a few odd earlier issues) are available for sale. Price per copy: UK - £0.75; Europe & Overseas - £1.00; US - \$2.00. For details of quantity discount irrespective of destination please see Bulletin No. 121 (June 1984) page 40. (or write for details enclosing s.a.e. for reply)

Binders - 'CORDEX' Instantaneous Self-Binders, each capable of holding 20 issues of the Bulletin, hard covers, Blue, spine entitled in Gold.

Price: UK - £4.50; Europe P, Overseas - £5.00; US - £8.50 (NO Discounts)

Please NOTE: Only the new A5 size binder is now stocked. They will accept the old size Bulletin but old size Binders will only accept Bulletins up to and including issue No. 143.

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